CLAIMS

1.   A method in a computer system for translating medical test results into plain language, comprising the steps of:

receiving a medical test result for a type of medical test;

identifying at least one template associated with the type of medical test;

selecting the template matching the medical test result; and

outputting a plain language explanation based on the selected template.

2.   The method of claim 1, wherein the at least one template is a set of templates associated with the type of medical test.

3.   The method as recited in claim 2, wherein each template of the identified set corresponds to a range of medical test result values.

4.   The method as recited in claim 3, wherein the selecting step includes determining a template corresponding to the range encompassing the medical test result.

5.   The method as recited in claim 2, wherein each template of the identified set corresponds to a medical test result value.

6.   The method as recited in claim 5 wherein the selecting step includes the template corresponding to the medical test result value.

7.	The method as recited in claim 1, further comprising the step of determining if the medical test result will be interpreted by a clinician.

8.	The method as recited in claim 7, wherein the selecting step includes receiving clinician input, the input matching the medical test result to a template.

9.	The method as recited in claim 8, further comprising the step of recording the input of the clinician.

10.	The method as recited in claim 1, further comprising the step of receiving patient information and comparing the patient information against a list of patients having authorization to receive the medical test result.

11.	The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the selected template includes at least one placeholder.

12.	The method as recited in claim 11, further comprising the step of inserting data into the selected template at the placeholder.

13.	The method as recited in claim 12, wherein the data is a numerical value for the medical test result.

14.   The method as recited in claim 1, further comprising the step of determining whether the selected template can be sent directly to a patient.

15.   The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the outputting includes sending a message to a storage unit and adapting the selected template for viewing via a web browser.

16.   The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the outputted plain language explanation is textual.

17.   The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the outputted plain language explanation is audible.

18.   The method as recited in claim 17, wherein the plain language explanation is delivered by an automated phone system.

19.   The method as recited in claim 17, wherein the plain language explanation is delivered by a wireless device.

20.   The method as recited in claim 1, further comprising the step of distributing the test results to a physician for review prior to the step of outputting a plain language explanation based on the selected template.

21.   A computer system for translating medical test results into plain language, comprising:

        a receiving component that receives a medical test result for a type of medical test;

an identifying component that identifies at least one template associated with the medical test;

a selecting component that selects the template matching the medical test result; and

an outputting component that outputs a plain language explanation based on the selected template.

22.   The system as recited in claim 21 wherein the at least one template is a set of templates associated with the type of medical test.

23.   The system as recited in claim 22, wherein each template of the identified set corresponds to a range of medical test result values.

24.   The system as recited in claim 23, wherein the selecting component includes a determining component that determines a template corresponding to the range encompassing the medical test result.

25.   The system as recited in claim 22, wherein each template of the identified set corresponds to a medical test result value.

26.   The system in claim 25, wherein the selecting component includes an identifying component that identifies the template corresponding to the medical test result value.

27.   The system as recited in claim 21, further comprising a determining component that determines if the medical test result will be interpreted by a clinician.

28.   The system as recited in claim 27, wherein the selecting component receives input from a clinician, the input matching the medical test result to a template.

29.   The system as recited in claim 28, further comprising a recording component that records the input of the clinician.

30.   The system as recited in claim 21, further comprising a receiving component that receives patient information and a comparing component that compares the patient information against a list of patients having authorization to receive the medical test result.

31.   The system as recited in claim 21, wherein the selected template includes at least one placeholder.

32.   The system as recited in claim 31, further comprising an inserting component that inserts data into the selected template at the placeholder.

33.   The system as recited in claim 32, wherein the data is a numerical value for the medical test result.

34.   The system as recited in claim 21, further a determining component that determines whether the selected template can be sent directly to a patient.

35.   The system as recited in claim 21, wherein the outputting component includes a sending component that sends a message to a storage unit and an adapting component that adapts the selected template to a format viewable via a web browser.

36.   The system as recited in claim 21, wherein the outputted plain language explanation is textual.

37.   The system as recited in claim 21, wherein the outputted plain language explanation is audible.

38.   The system as recited in claim 37, further comprising an automated phone system that delivers the plain language explanation.

39.   The system as recited in claim 21, further comprising a wireless device that delivers the plain language explanation.

40.   The system as recited in claim 21, further comprising a distributing component for distributing the test results to a physician for review before the outputting component outputs a plain language explanation based on the selected template.

41.   A computer-readable medium containing instructions for controlling a computer system to translate medical test results into plain language, by:

　　　　receiving a medical test result for a type of medical test;

　　　　identifying at least one template associated with the medical test;

　　　　selecting the template matching the medical test result; and

　　　　outputting a plain language explanation based on the selected template.

42.   The computer-readable medium as recited in claim 41, wherein the at least one template is a set of templates associated with the type of medical test.

43.   The computer-readable medium as recited in claim 42, wherein each template of the identified set corresponds to a range of medical test result values.

44.   The computer-readable medium as recited in claim 43, wherein the selecting step includes determining a template corresponding to the range encompassing the medical test result.

45.   The computer-readable medium as recited in claim 42, wherein each template of the identified set corresponds to a medical test value.

46.   The computer-readable medium of claim 45, wherein the selecting step includes identifying the template corresponding to the medical test result value.

47.   The computer-readable medium as recited in claim 41, further comprising the step of determining if the medical test result will be interpreted by a clinician.

48.   The computer-readable medium as recited in claim 47, wherein the selecting step includes receiving clinician input, the input matching the medical test result to a template.

49.   The computer-readable medium as recited in claim 48, further comprising the step of recording the input of the clinician.

50.   The computer-readable medium as recited in claim 41, further comprising the step of receiving patient information and comparing the patient information against a list of patients having authorization to receive the medical test result.

51.   The computer-readable medium as recited in claim 41, wherein the selected template includes at least one placeholder.

52.   The computer-readable medium as recited in claim 51, further comprising the step of inserting data into the selected template at the placeholder.

53.   The computer-readable medium as recited in claim 52, wherein the data is a numerical value for the medical test result.

54.   The computer-readable medium as recited in claim 41, further comprising the step of determining whether the selected template can be sent directly to a patient.

55.   The computer-readable medium as recited in claim 41, wherein the outputting includes sending a message to a storage unit and adapting the selected template for viewing via a web browser.

56.   The computer-readable medium as recited in claim 41, wherein the outputted plain language explanation is textual.

57.   The computer-readable medium as recited in claim 41, wherein the outputted plain language explanation is audible.

58.   The computer-readable medium as recited in claim 57, wherein the plain language explanation is delivered by an automated phone system.

59.   The computer-readable medium as recited in claim 57, wherein the plain language explanation is delivered by a wireless device.

60.   The computer-readable medium as recited in claim 41, further comprising the step of distributing the test results to a physician for review prior to the step of outputting a plain language explanation based on the selected template.